

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 22, 40 and 44 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found throughout the specification, including, for example, at paragraphs 20, 31 and 34. No new matter has been added.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-48 will be pending in the present application with claims 1, 22, 40, 42, 44 and 45 being independent.

1. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 12, 14-17, 19-29, 32, 34-37, 39-42 and 44-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,505,106 to Lawrence et al. ("Lawrence"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lawrence discloses analysis and profiling of vehicle fleet data. Data records transmitted from a plurality of vehicles are collected at a central data repository, where analysis and profiling can take place to facilitate vehicle fleet maintenance. Each data record may include data derived by synchronizing on-board diagnostic computer output and GPS location data, correlated by time and tagged with vehicle identification information (see col. 2, lines 8-14). Lawrence discloses a cellular network 10 having a mobile exchange switch 12 connected to a transceiver and an antenna 14. The transceiver is located in each cell of the cellular network and communicates with the switch 12 for transmission and reception of signals to and from a data collection system 13 located in a vehicle 15 (see col. 3, lines 12-19). The data collection system 13 includes an onboard diagnostic computer 22, a GPS transceiver 24, a cellular transceiver 26, and a data processing system 28, which may include a processor 30, system memory 32, disk memory 34, input/output device 36, and an operating system 38 (see col. 3, lines 34-37; col. 4, lines 1-3; FIG. 2). The data collection system 13 may use the cellular transceiver 26 in conjunction with the

cellular network 10, and the Internet, to transmit information to a remote host 18, which is also shown in FIG. 1 as an “analysis server”.

The Office Action asserts on page 3 that the input/output device 36 of the data collection system 13 of Lawrence is a communication interface configured to send information to a peripheral system (i.e., the analysis server 18). However, Lawrence fails to disclose or suggest that the input/output device 36 is configured to universally interface with different peripheral systems. Lawrence discloses that the input/output device 36, or the data collection system 13, communicates with a single remote host 18. Lawrence fails to disclose or suggest any communication or serial interface configured to universally interface with different peripheral systems.

In contrast to Lawrence, independent claims 1, 22, 40 and 44 of the present application include, in some form, the limitation of a communication or serial interface configured to universally interface with different peripheral systems. As noted in the specification of the present application, a benefit of this feature is that “different peripheral devices can easily and quickly connect to the telematics device through its serial interface. This means a user can add valuable functionality to the telematics device, and optimize the device for a particular application, in a matter of minutes.” (see specification, paragraph 31).

As discussed above, Lawrence does not disclose these claim limitations. Accordingly, claims 1, 22, 40 and 44, and their respective dependent claims, are allowable.

Regarding claim 42, the Office Action on page 3 asserts that Lawrence discloses a short-range transmitter (i.e., the transceiver/antenna 14) configured to send information to an external peripheral device (i.e., the remote host 18). However, the transceiver/antenna 14 of Lawrence is not located within the vehicle 15. Instead, Lawrence discloses that the transceiver/antenna 14 is part of the cellular network 10, and therefore, external to the vehicle (see FIG. 2). Lawrence fails to disclose an in-vehicle telematics system comprising a short-range wireless transmitter.

In contrast to Lawrence, claim 42 includes an in-vehicle telematics system comprising a

short-range wireless transmitter, communicating with a controller, configured to send information to an external peripheral device. As discussed above, Lawrence fails to disclose this claim limitation. Accordingly, claim 42, and dependent claim 43, are allowable.

Regarding claim 45, the Office Action on page 3 asserts that Lawrence teaches a voice interface (not explicitly shown) configured to send voice information, stating that the system in Lawrence is configured to send voice data using the telephone network 16 (citing col. 3, lines 20-31). Lawrence teaches the use of an external telephone network 16 to transmit data (see FIG. 1), and a speech engine 146 (see FIG. 7). However, Lawrence fails to teach an in-vehicle telematics system comprising a voice interface. Furthermore, Lawrence fails to teach a voice interface that is configured to receive and send voice information. Although Lawrence discloses a speech engine 146, Lawrence fails to disclose that the speech engine is configured to receive and send voice information.

In contrast to Lawrence, claim 45 includes an in-vehicle telematics system comprising a voice interface, communicating with a controller, configured to receive and send voice information. As discussed above, Lawrence fails to disclose this claim limitation. Accordingly, claim 45, and the claims dependent thereon, are allowable.

2. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 10, 11, 13, 18, 30, 31, 38 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,889,064 to Baratono et al. ("Baratono"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Lawrence fails to disclose or suggest a communication or serial interface configured to universally interface with different peripheral systems. Additionally, Lawrence fails to disclose or suggest an in-vehicle telematics system comprising a short-range wireless transmitter, communicating with a controller, configured to send information to an external peripheral device. Furthermore, Lawrence fails to disclose or suggest an in-vehicle

telematics system comprising a voice interface, communicating with a controller, configured to receive and send voice information. Baratono fails to cure these defects in Lawrence.

Baratono discloses a mobile or cellular telephone unit combined with a rear view mirror housing of an automobile to provide an improved telephone apparatus that enables a hands-free use by a driver while operating a vehicle (see abstract; FIGS. 1 and 2). Baratono discloses hands-free use, Bluetooth capability and infrared port applications (see abstract; col. 7, lines 33-35; col. 6, lines 35-38). However, Baratono fails to disclose or suggest a communication or serial interface configured to universally interface with different peripheral systems, as included in independent claims 1, 22, 40 and 44. Additionally, Baratono fails to disclose or suggest an in-vehicle telematics system comprising a short-range wireless transmitter, communicating with a controller, configured to send information to an external peripheral device, as included in claim 42. Furthermore, Baratono fails to disclose or suggest an in-vehicle telematics system comprising a voice interface, communicating with a controller, configured to receive and send voice information, as included in claim 45. Therefore, Lawrence and Baratono, alone or in combination, fail to disclose the elements claimed in the present application. For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 22, 40, 42, 44 and 45 are allowable over Lawrence in view of Baratono.

Claims 10, 11, 13 and 18 depend from claim 1. Claims 30, 31 and 38 depend from claim 22. Claim 43 depends from claim 42. As discussed above, claims 1, 22 and 42 are allowable. For at least this reason, and the features recited therein, claims 10, 11, 13, 18, 30, 31, 38 and 43 are also allowable.

3. Status of Claim 33

The Office Action fails to provide an explanation regarding the disposition of claim 33. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide clarification regarding the status of this claim.

4. Conclusion

In view of the above, claims 1-48 clearly recite elements that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art. Applicants submit that such claims are allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

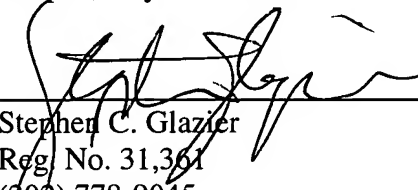
Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that this application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to address the Examiner's concerns.

Please apply any necessary additional charges or credits to Deposit Account 50-1721.

Date: _____

4/11/06

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen C. Glazier
Reg. No. 31,361
(202) 778-9045

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP
1601 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 778-9000
Fax: (202) 778-9100